optimum capacity resulting in wastage of precious aviation fuel;

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(f) what steps Government have so far taken to remove the difficulties faced by ATOs in their operational functioning particularly on uneconomic routes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) In order to ensure safety, security and orderly growth of air transport operations, at present, acquisition of aircraft by Air Taxi Operators and Scheduled Operators is considered on merits on a case to case basis.

(d) and (e) Optipmum utilisation of capacity depends upon many factors such as season, weather, type of aircraft, timings of flight, service provided etc. Several private airlines are still in their initial phase. Growth in domestic air traffic capacity has, however, provided better choice to the passengers.

(0 No specific difficulties in operational functioning have been brought to the notice by the ATOs. However, remedial action in the matter will be considered on merits of the difficulty reported by any operator.

Targctted Mosey Through Disinvestment

5241. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disinvestment in various PSUs has brought in the money targetted;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the money so raised is being used only to reduce fiscal deficit;

(d) whether it would be more reasonable to use this money to reduce our indebtedness;

(e) whether some of this money can be made available to the concerned PSUs to Tiprove their working; and

(f) whether disinvestment can be pushed to SI per cent for effective privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) The target proceeds of ' disinvestment of shares in select Public Sector Undertakings and the actual > realisation during the last four years are as under:— '

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Target	Realisation
1991-92	2500	3038
1992-93	3500	1912
1993-94	3500	Nil
1994-95	4000	4804*

(• Provisional)

(c) The amounts realised as above are credited to the Consolidated Fund of India which is the general pool of resources of the Government of India.

(d) The target amount of Central Government borrowings are arrived at after taking into account the potential realisation from disinvestment of Government shares.

(e) PSUs are extended budgetary support to improve their working by the Government wherever required without linking to the aggregate realisation from disinvestment. -,

(0 Under the current policy approved by the Cabinet the disinvestment is . proposed to be limited to a maximum of 49% of the Government holding only.

Measures to counter Narcotics Trafficking and addiction

5242. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SIIARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US State Department in its annual international narcotics control strategy

report has asked India to take strict measures to counter narcotics trafficking and addiction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian drug traffickers have made huge shipments of heroin to the US and Canada; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) The report exhorts almost all countries to take more effective counter narcotics measures.

(b) Though it is suspected that containerized cargo is being used for shipment of drugs to Western countries, no case of export of large shipments of heroin to USA and Canada has come to the notice of the Narcotics Control Bureau during 1994 nor any such case was reported to the Bureau by the counter narcotics authorities of USA or Canada.

(c) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipments have been provided. Coast Guards, who are deployed on coastal borders have been vested with the powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

Newsitem on Public Sector Banks

5243. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Sarvjanik Kshetra Ke bankon Ki bakaya raashi mein vridhi" appearir in the Dainik Jagran of 4th August, 199

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Governmei thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THI MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a to (c) Information is being collected an to the extent available will be laid on th Table of the House.

Smuggling of Gold by Airlines Official

5244. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister o FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officials of the Airlines have been found involved in gold smuggling;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been made therein and if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the action taken in the matter;

(d) the number of gold smuggling cases that were detected in 1994 and so far; and

(e) whether such cases are on the rise and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Some cases of attempt to smuggle gold by Airlines employees have been detected. Departmental Adjudication proceedings for imposition of penalty & action under Cofeposa wheresoever warranted has been taken.

(d) and (e) Gold weighing 1147 Kg. valued at Rs. 53.35 crores was seized during 1994. Available reports indicate decline in smuggling of gold.